

Ray Mellado

Chairman of the Board and Founder
Great Minds in STEM



Ray Mellado is the founder and Chairman of the Board of Great Minds in STEM™, formerly HENAAC (Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation), a national 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to “keeping America technologically strong by promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers in underserved communities.”

Mellado founded Great Minds in STEM™ in 1989, after a distinguished 21-year career in the private sector as a marketing and sales executive with the Xerox Corporation. Throughout his career, Mellado has taken active leadership roles in the Hispanic community. In 1977, as a rising star on Xerox’s marketing and sales team, Mellado joined a group of pioneers and established the Hispanic Association for Professional Advancement (HAPA), one of the first Hispanic Employee Associations in Corporate America. HAPA was proud to have him serve as one of its founding presidents. In his spare time, Mellado coached football at the high school, community college and college level for 17 years.

Mellado has been the recipient of several awards. Most recently Mellado received the 2009 NASA Exceptional Public Service Medal. This award is limited to less than one percent of the contractor workforce. He received this medal for outstanding contributions to NASA’s mission in honoring and documenting the success of outstanding Hispanic American professionals, including NASA engineers, scientist and astronauts. In addition, Admiral Gary Roughead, chief of naval operations, presented Mr. Mellado with the inaugural Admiral David Farragut Hispanic Diversity Champion Award at the annual Association of Naval Services Officer Conference in 2010. In 2013, Ray and his wife Carmela were inducted in the HENAAC Hall of Fame.

Mellado was born and raised in East Los Angeles, California, where he attended Cathedral High School, East Los Angeles College, and Whittier College. He and his wife, Carmela, have been married for 46 years and have three grown children and four grandchildren.